

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 PM-07 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

COA-02 L-03 INT-08 SAJ-01 SCEM-02 DRC-01 /175 W

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R 150945Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8052

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL DANANG

UNCLAS SAIGON 17929

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR

SUB: GVN ACTIONS IN PARACEL ISLANDS

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE OCTOBER 13 ISSUE OF VIETNAM PRESS, THE OFFICIAL GVN PRESS BULLETIN, UNDER THE TITLE "RVN REPLANTS SOVEREIGNTY STELE ON HOANG-SA ARCHIPELAGO."

2. QUOTE SAIGON, CT. 12 (VPPL - A SPECIALISTS TEAM OF THE 8TH CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER INTERGROUPS LAST OCT. 3 LEFT DANANG ABOARD A WARSHIP FOR HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO TO RE-PLANT THE STELES OF RVN SOVEREIGNTY ON THESE ISLANDS.

3. SOURCES FROM THE NAVY COMMAND SAID THIS TEAM LANDED ON THE ISLANDS ON OCT. 4 AND THEN USED PATROL CRAFTS IN AN OBSERVATION TOUR OF SITES FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE RVN SOVEREIGNTY STELE ON CAM TUYEN (ROBERT) ISLAND AND A WHARF ON HOANG SA (PATTLE) ISLAND.

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RM THE SPECIALIST TEAM RETURNED TO DANANG OCT. 5 AFTER THE SURVEY OF THE SITES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STELE AND WHARF WAS COMPLETED.

5. HOANG SA OR CAT VANG ARCHIPELAGO IS A SERIES OF ISLANDS OFFSHORE VIETNAM LYING BETWEEN LONGITUDE 111-113 DEGREES AND NORTH LATITUDE 15.45'-17.5' DEGREES, 400 KMS FROM HUE AND 300 KMS FROM DA NANG. IT HAS TWO GROUPS OF ISLANDS; TUYEN DUC (AMPHITRITE) AND NGUYET THIEN (CROISSANT) AND AT PRESENT, THE RVN ARMED FORCES ARE MANING HOANG SA (PATTLE) ISLAND OF TUYEN DUC ISLAND GROUP.

6. HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO IS A PLACE WHERE VARIOUS SPECIES OF FISH GATHER. SEA PRODUCTS ARE AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE WHICH ATTRACTS FISHERMEN FROM RED CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO THESE ISLANDS FOR FISHING.

7. KING GIA LONG VISITED THE ARCHIPELAGO IN 1816, GAVE IT THE NAME AND PLANTED FLAG ON IT TO ASSERT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF VIETNAM.

8. UNDER THE 1ST REPUBLIC, ARVN UNITS WERE ALSO STATIONED THERE AND SINCE THEN RVN WARSHIPS HAVE ALWAYS CONDUCTED PATROL MISSIONS AROUND THESE ISLANDS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL FISHING AND PROTECT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE RVN.

9. BESIDES RESOURCES OF SEA PRODUCTS THIS ARCHIPELAGO HAS PHOSPHATE AS ANOTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCE.

10. ACCORDING TO DOCUMENTS OF THE MINERALS CRAFT AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE GENERAL, THERE ARE 560,000 TO 960,000 TONS OF PHOSPHATE IN HOANG SA ISLAND, 675,000 TO 1,440,000 TONS IN CAM TUYEN ISLAND, 787,000 TONS TO 1,200,000 TONS IN MONEY ISLAND AND OVER 700 TONS IN DRUMMOND ISLAND.

11. WITHIN THE POSTWAR ECONOMIC PROJECT, THE VIETNAM NAVY COULD ACTIVELY PROMOTE THE PROTECTION OF FISHING AND EXPLOITATION OF SEA PRODUCTS AND PHOSPHATE ON THESE ISLANDS. THAT IS AN ENDLESS RESOURCE WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE IMPORTANT PART TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. END QUOTE
MARTIN

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